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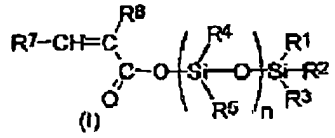
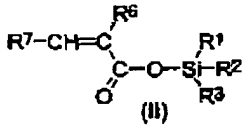
Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers of general formula (I) ~~or polymers thereof~~, comprising the steps of:



(I)

reacting a cyclosiloxane of formula $(R^4R^5SiO)_n$ with unsaturated organosilylated carboxylate of formula (II) or copolymers thereof under the presence of a suitable catalyst,



(II)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 each independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkyloxy, aryl, aralkyl or halogen radical optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from the group comprising alkyl, aralkyl, aryl, hydroxy, halogen, amino or amino alkyl radicals,
R^6 represents hydrogen, alkyl radical, or $-CH_2-CO_2-SiR^1R^2R^3$,
R^7 represents hydrogen, alkyl radical or $-COOR^9$ wherein R^9 represents an alkyl group,
R^8 represents hydrogen, alkyl radical or $-CH_2-CO_2-(SiR^4R^5O)_n-SiR^1R^2R^3$, and
n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 20.

2. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^9 are each independently selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, and t-butyl.

3. (Original) Process according to claim 2, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^9 are methyl.

4. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 12.

5. (Original) Process according to claim 4, wherein n is 3.

6. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein said unsaturated organosilylated carboxylate of formula (II) is selected from the group comprising trimethylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-t-butylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tribenzylsilyl (meth) acrylate, triethylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-isopropylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-isobutylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-amylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-butylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-dodecylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-hexylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-octylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-propylsilyl (meth) acrylate, triphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-p-methylphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dibutylcyclohexylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dibutylphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate; dicyclohexylphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate, diisopropyl-n-butylsilyl (meth) acrylate, diisopropylstearylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dimethylbutylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dimethylcyclohexylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dimethylhexylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dimethyloctylsilyl (meth) acrylate, dimethylphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate, ethyldibutylsilyl (meth) acrylate, ethyldimethylsilyl (meth) acrylate, lauryldiphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate, methyldibutylsilyl (meth) acrylate, n-octyldi-n-butylsilyl (meth) acrylate, t-butyl dimethylsilyl (meth) acrylate, t-butyldiphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate, bis (trimethylsilyl) itaconate, t-butyldiphenylsilyl methyl fumarate, t-butyldiphenylsilyl methyl maleate, t-butyldiphenylsilyl n-butyl fumarate, t-butyldiphenylsilyl n-butyl maleate, triisopropylsilyl amyl fumarate, triisopropylsilyl amyl maleate, triisopropylsilyl methyl fumarate, triisopropylsilyl methyl maleate, tri-n-butylsilyl n-butyl fumarate, tri-n-butylsilyl n-butyl maleate, and polymers or copolymers thereof and the like.

7. (Original) Process according to claim 6, wherein said unsaturated organosilylated carboxylate of formula (II) is selected from the group comprising trimethylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-t-butylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tribenzylsilyl (meth) acrylate, triethylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-isopropylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-isobutylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-amylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-butylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-dodecylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-hexylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-octylsilyl (meth) acrylate, tri-n-propylsilyl (meth) acrylate and triphenylsilyl (meth) acrylate and polymers or copolymers thereof.

8. (Original) Process according to claim 7, wherein said unsaturated organosilylated carboxylate of formula (II) is trimethylsilyl methacrylate or a copolymer or a polymer thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein said cyclosiloxane of formula $(R^4R^5SiO)_n$ is selected from the group comprising 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5-hexamethyl-cyclotrisiloxane ~~(D3)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5-hexaethyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5-hexaphenyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5-hexavinyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 3, 5-trimethyl-1, 3, 5-trivinyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 3, 5-trimethyl-1, 3, 5-triphenyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 3, 5-trimethyl-1, 3, 5-tripropyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 3, 5-triethyl-1, 3, 5-trimethyl-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 3, 5-trimethyl-1, 3, 5-triphenethyl-cyclosiloxane, 1, 3, 5-trivinyltrihydro-cyclotrisiloxane, 1, 3, 5-trimethyltrihydro-cyclotrisiloxane, pentamethyl-cyclotrisiloxanes, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7-octamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxane ~~(D4)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7-octaphenyl-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7-octavinyl-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7-octahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetramethyl-1, 3, 5, 7-tetrahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetramethyl-1, 3, 5, 7-tetra (1-octyl) -cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetravinyl-1, 3, 5, 7-tetramethyl-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetravinyl-1, 3, 5, 7-tetraethyl cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetraallyl-1, 3, 5, 7-tetraphenyl-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetra(1-hexadecyl)-1, 3, 5, 7-tetramethyl-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetraoctyltetrahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetravinyltetrahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetraethyltetrahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetrapropenyltetrahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7-tetrapentenyltetrapentyl-cyclotetrasiloxane; 1, 3, 5, 7-tetraphenyltetrahydro-cyclotetrasiloxane, pentamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxanes, hexamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxanes, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9-decamethyl-cyclopentasiloxane ~~(D5)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9-decahydro-cyclopentasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-pentavinyl-1, 3, 5, 7, 9-pentamethyl-cyclopentasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-pentadecenyl-1, 3, 5, 7, 9-pentapropyl-cyclopentasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-pentamethylpentahydro-cyclopentasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-pentavinylpentahydro-cyclopentasiloxane, tetramethyl-cyclopentasiloxanes, hexamethyl-cyclopentasiloxanes, heptamethyl-cyclopentasiloxanes, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9, 11, 11-dodecamethyl-cyclohexasiloxane ~~(D6)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9, 11, 11-dodecahydro-cyclohexasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11-hexavinylhexamethyl-cyclohexasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9,

11-hexamethylhexahydro-cyclohexasiloxane, tetramethyl-cyclohexasiloxanes, pentamethyl-cyclohexasiloxanes, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-decavinyldecahydro-cyclodecasiloxane, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29-pentadecavinylpentadecahydro-cyclopentadecasiloxane and the like.

10. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 9, wherein said cyclosiloxane of formula $(R^4R^5SiO)_n$ is selected from the group comprising 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5-hexamethyl-cyclotrisiloxane ~~(D3)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7-octamethyl-cyclotetrasiloxane ~~(D4)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9-decamethyl-cyclopentasiloxane ~~(D5)~~, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 7, 7, 9, 9, 11, 11-dodecamethyl-cyclohexasiloxane ~~(D6)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 10, wherein said cyclosiloxane of formula $(R^4R^5SiO)_n$ is 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5-hexamethyl-cyclotrisiloxane ~~(D3)~~.

12. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein said suitable catalyst for the reaction is an acidic catalyst.

13. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 12, wherein said catalyst is selected from the group comprising hydrochloric acid, acetic acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid, trifluoracetic acid, acetic acid, a strongly acidic ion exchange resin of the sulfonic type, ~~AMBERLYST A15, AMBERLYST 38 W, AMBERLYST 36, AMBERJET 1500H, AMBERJET 1200H, DOWEX MSC-1, DOWEX 50W, DELOXAN ASP-1/9, DIAION SK1B, LEWATIT VP OC 1812, LEWATIT S 100 MB, LEWATIT S 100 G1, NAFION SAC13, NAFION NR50, CT275,~~ $ZnCl_2$, $BeCl_2$, $TiCl_4$, $SnCl_4$, $FeCl_3$, $FeCl_2$, $SbCl_5$, $AlCl_3$ and other metal halides.

14. (Original) Process according to claim 13, wherein said catalyst is $ZnCl_2$.

15. (Original) Process according to claim 13, wherein said catalyst is trifluoromethanesulfonic acid.

16. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 13, wherein said catalyst is a strongly acidic ion exchange resin of the sulfonic type ~~AMBERLYST A15~~.

17. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 12, further comprising the step of neutralising the acidic catalyst with a base.

18. (Original) Process according to claim 17, wherein said base is selected from the group comprising triethylamine, diethylamine, tributylamine, hexamethyldisilazane N-methylmorpholine, diisopropylethylamine, dicyclohexylamine, N-methylpiperidine, pyridine, 4-pyrrolidinopyridine, picoline, 4-(N,N-dimethylamino) pyridine, 2, 6-di (t-butyl)-4-methylpyridine, quinoline, N,N-dimethylaniline and N,N-diethylaniline and the like.

19. (Original) Process according to claim 18, wherein said base is triethylamine.

20. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the step of reacting the cyclosiloxane of formula $(R^4R^5SiO)_n$ with the unsaturated organosilylated carboxylate of formula (II) or a copolymer, or a polymer thereof is optionally performed in the presence of a suitable solvent.

21. (Original) Process according to claim 20, wherein said solvent is a nonpolar inert solvent selected from the group comprising benzene, toluene, xylene, mesitylene, ethylbenzene, pentane, hexane, cyclohexane, heptane, octane, decane, decahydronaphthalene, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, diisopropyl ether, diisobutyl ether, or mixtures thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed ~~preformed~~ at a temperature selected in the range of 20 to 150 °C.

23. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed at room temperature.

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24. (Previously Presented) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers of formula (I) or polymers thereof obtained by the process according to claim 1.

25. (Previously Presented) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers of formula (I) or polymers thereof obtainable by the process according to claim 1.

26. (Previously Presented) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers or polymers thereof according to claim 24, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^9 are each independently selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, isobutyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, and t-butyl.

27. (Original) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers or polymers thereof according to claim 26, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^9 are methyl.

28. (Previously Presented) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers or polymers thereof according to claim 24, wherein n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 12.

29. (Original) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers or polymers thereof according to claim 28, wherein n is 3.

30. (Previously Presented) A coating composition comprising a polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomer or polymer thereof according to claim 24.

31. (Previously Presented) A binder of antifouling coating composition comprising a polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomer according to claim 24 as comonomer unit.

32. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 8.

33. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 6.

34. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed ~~preformed~~ at a temperature selected in the range of 50 to 120 °C.

35. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein said reaction is performed ~~preformed~~ at a temperature selected in the range of 90 to 110 °C.

36. (Previously Presented) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers or polymers thereof according to claim 24, wherein n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 8.

37. (Previously Presented) Polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers or polymers thereof according to claim 24, wherein n represents a number of dihydrocarbylsiloxane units from 3 to 6.

38. (New) A method of using polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers according to claim 24 in a coating composition.

39. (New) A method of using polyorganosilylated carboxylate monomers according to claim 24 as comonomer units in the binder of antifouling coating compositions.